

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of recognizing speech, the method comprising:
 - detecting a predefined prefix;
 - 5 recognizing text from speech following the prefix using a set of grammars associated with the detected prefix;
 - and
 - directing recognized text to a target
 - 10 associated with the set of grammars.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of grammars is specific to a computer program.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the target is the computer program.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the prefix is at least one word related to the computer program.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the prefix is a word.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the prefix
- 25 is a phrase.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined prefix, and set of grammars are specified in a category.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the category also includes a field to identify a parent of the category.

5 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the category also includes a field to determine if a prefix is required to invoke the category.

10. The method of claim 1, executed upon a
10 desktop computer.

11. The method of claim 1, executed upon a mobile computing device.

15 12. A data structure for storing information relative to a speech recognition category, the data structure comprising:

a prefix field, which when recognized will
cause the category to become an
20 ActiveCategory;

a grammar field indicating a set of
grammars to use with the category;

an IsRequired field to indicate whether the
prefix must be uttered in order to
25 direct speech to the set of grammars;

and
a parent field indicating a parent
category.

13. A speech recognition system comprising:
an input for receiving speech;
a processor for recognizing speech using a
set of one or more grammars;
5 wherein the processor is adapted to
recognize a prefix associated with a
desired category, and to recognize
speech using the set of one or more
grammars associated with the desired
10 category when the prefix is recognized
to generate an output; and
wherein the output is provided to a target
associated with the recognized
grammar.
- 15
14. The recognizer of claim 13, wherein the
prefix must be recognized in order activate the set
of grammars.
- 20 15. The recognizer of claim 14, wherein the set
of grammars is specific to a computer application.